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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

25X

DATE DISTR. 7 October 1953

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

Zdar Machine Shops and Foundries (Zdarске
Strojirny a Slevarny), Zdar nad Sazavou

NO. OF PAGES

4

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- The nationalized Zdar Machine Shops and Foundries at Zdar, Moravia, produce all types of steel. However, the high quality steels such as vanadium, molybdenum and chromium-nickel are seldom manufactured due to shortages in alloy materials. The main raw material is a poor scrap which comes from the nationalized scrap metal firm in Jihlava (Kovoskup. Narodni podnik, Jihlava) in irregular deliveries. This scrap, consisting of old rails, cans and sheet metal scraps, is delivered on trucks and railroad cars. Pig iron is not used in the Zdar factory. As the GDR has few domestic ores, it imports manganese and silica, mainly from East Germany, and vanadium from the USSR. Chromium ore of approximately 75 percent purity has been delivered in Dutch railroad cars. Molybdenum is not obtainable.
- There are three standard electric arc furnaces used in Zdar: two 10-ton furnaces and one four-ton furnace. The electrodes are manufactured and delivered by the Russians. The 10-ton furnaces use 520 kilowatt-hours of electricity per ton and the four-ton furnace uses 505 to 534 kilowatt-hours per ton. The main power line comes from a plant in Vir (050/N13) to the transformer outside the factory grounds which transforms 200,000 volts into 22,000 volts. There is no emergency source of power supply.
- The only underground constructions are: a cable from the transformer station which directs power to the long-distance circuit disconnection (Fernleitungstrenner) and then to the transformers for the furnaces; a gas tank for factory cars and tractors.
- In the Zdar foundry, a new method of speeding up production has been introduced by Engineer Malysev (inal). This consists of overheating the charge in the furnace to melt the charge more quickly. This method produces a steel of inferior quality. A recent total day's output of the three furnaces was 118 metric tons, but from 33 to 65 percent of the produced material was defective.
- The machine shop and foundry are steel construction of the standard type manufactured by the firm Wiener Brueckenbau und Eisenkonstruktionen A.G., Hafstrauchgasse 13, 1135, Vienna X. The following equipment is found in the foundry (building #9) and the machine shop (building #4): Building #9: ...

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strasse 70, Vienna V:

- (1) One 75-ton crane on 15 meter high longitudinal rails.
 - (2) One 32-ton crane on 15 meter high longitudinal rails.
 - (3) One 32-ton crane on 15 meter high transverse rails.
 - (4) One 32-ton crane on 8 meter high longitudinal rails; could be used as magnetic crane.
 - (5) Eight 20-ton cranes on 8 meter high longitudinal rails.
 - (6) One five-ton crane on 8 meter high longitudinal rails.
- b. Two normal-gauge tracks which run transverse to the long axis of building #9. Low, man-powered cars are used for transportation on these tracks.
 - c. One hydraulic press for reducing iron scrap to blocks, which are then transported to the furnaces.
 - d. Two gas-powered drying ovens (Gastrockentofen) with a capacity of 100 cubic meters each.
 - e. One water blast (Wassergebläse-Wasserstrahlgebläse) with compressor. This machine is of American origin.
 - f. Three high pressure furnaces (Drucköfen), coal-powered, which are ready to be reconstructed for gas power.

Building #4

- g. Four small automatic lathes.
 - h. One large vertical boring machine.
 - i. Several small horizontal and vertical milling cutters (Fräsen).
 - j. Several small boring machines.
 - k. Three or four large vertical lathes (Karusselldrehbänke).
 - l. One large surface lathe (Planscheibebank) with 400 mm diameter.⁴
6. The Zdar foundry also produces the following semi-finished products: cog-wheels, cog-rails, small gear boxes, small foundation plates, wheels and axles. These products are cast in the foundry and shipped to other workshops for further treatment. The loading of these shipments takes place in building #9, where railroad cars are brought in at night and removed before the start of the 0600 shift.
 7. Both building #9 and building #4 are being developed. Central heating is being installed in these buildings as well as in the just completed administrative buildings. Next to building #9 is a bunker where casting forms will be stored; the bunker should be completed by the winter of 1953-1954. Another building is to be built on the southeast corner of the factory grounds to house the forge; it should be completed by 1956. Several temporary barracks have been erected in the northwest corner of the factory grounds to house various firms and support establishments participating in the construction of the Zdar plant.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: Listed in the Jihlava telephone directory for 1951-52 as Kovosrot Ostrava, National Corporation, Jihlava Shop (Kovosrot Ostrava, Národní podnik provozovna Jihlava).

25X1 [redacted] Comment: Prior to the recent Czech currency reform, the price paid for one kilogram of vanadium was 380 crowns.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: If the main transformer were damaged the entire foundry would be blacked out.

25X1 [redacted] a shipment of machines, including two large surface lathes with a 400 mm and 200 mm diameter respectively and auto-lathes, is expected within two years. All machines deliveries come from the TOS (Tovary obrabecích strojů, the nationalized machine production industry), in particular from the TOS in Varnsdorf. Other factories of TOS are located in Celnovice nad Labem, Zbrak pod Brdy, Hostivice u Prahy and Kurim (or Kourim).

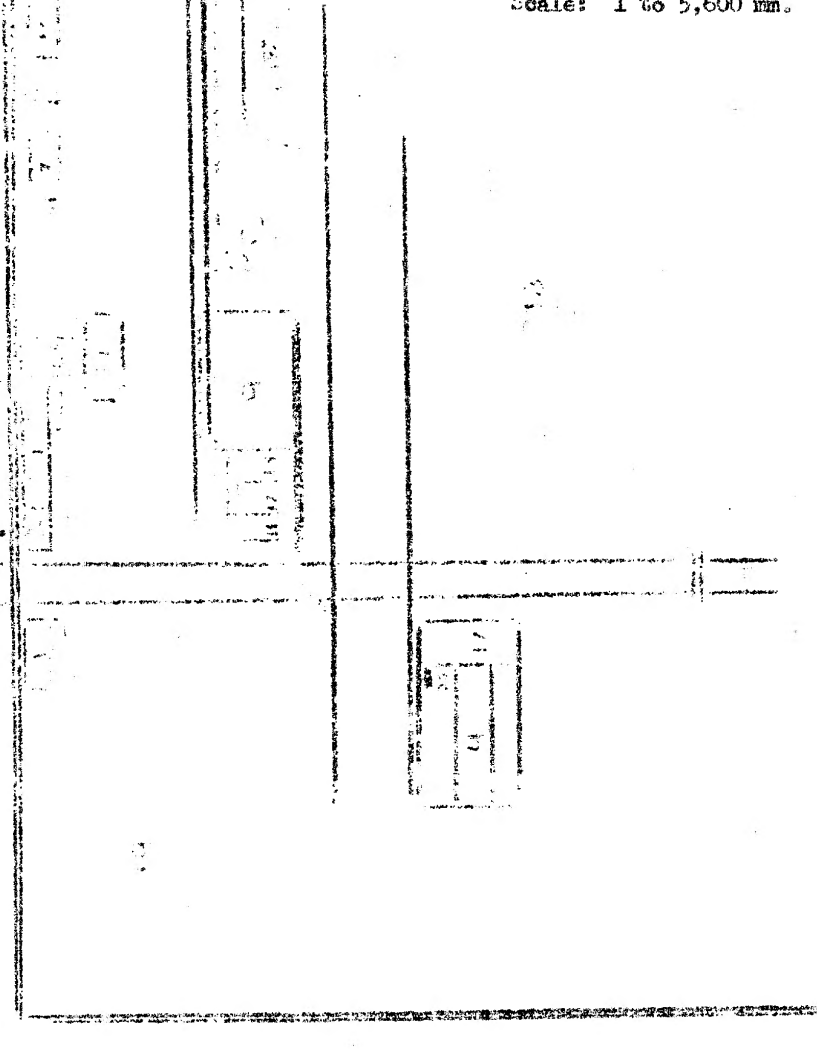
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ZADAR MACHINE PLANT AND
FOUNDRY GROUNDS

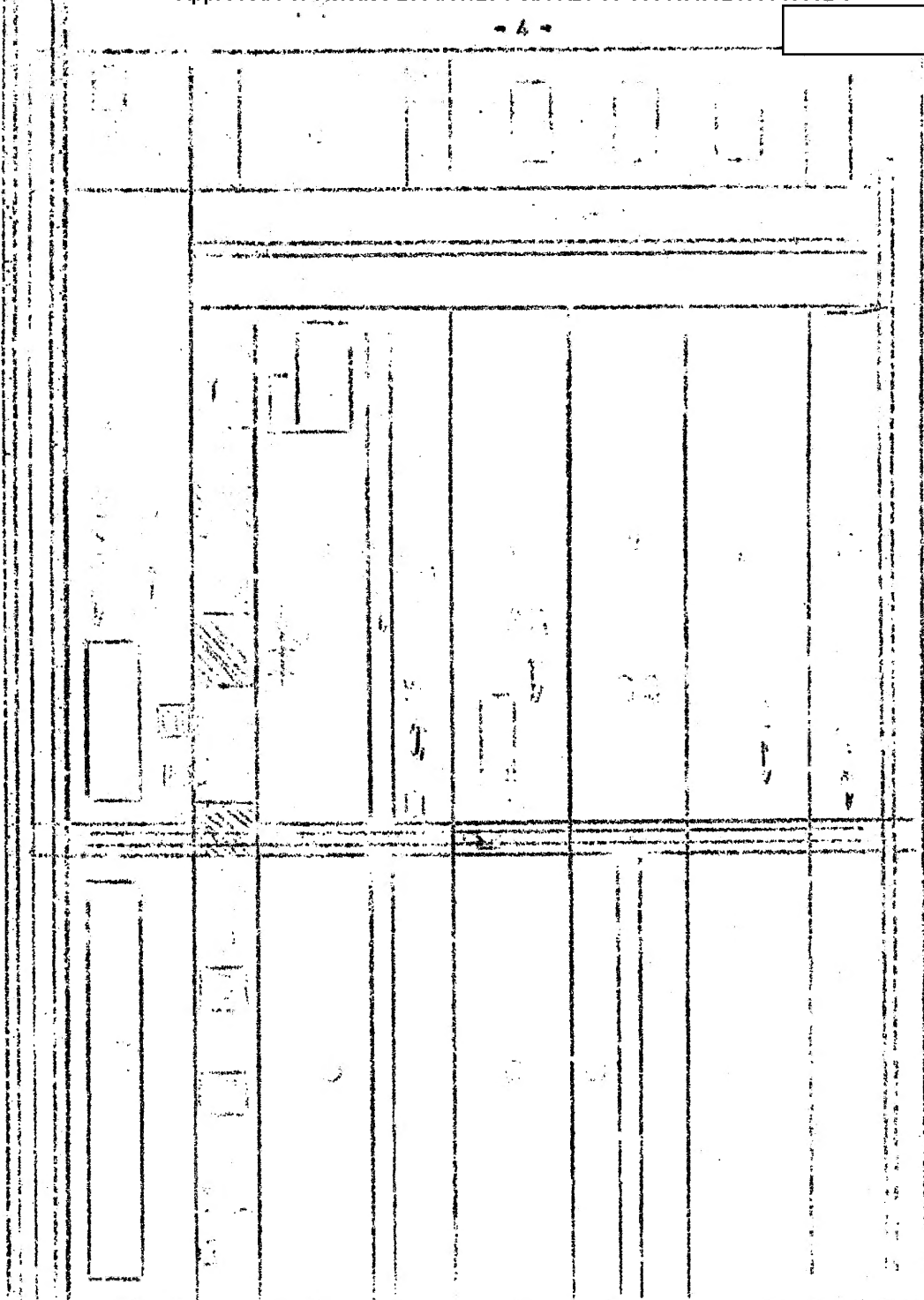
Scale: 1 to 5,600 mm.

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Fire Department | 6A. Kitchen | 13. Pattern Shop, under construction |
| 2. Factory Militia | 6B. Messhall | 14. Main Transformer |
| 3. First Aid Station | 7. Hot Water Supply | 15. Chimney |
| 4. Machinery Hall #4 | 8. Small Generator Building | 16. Storage Area |
| 5. Empty | 9. Foundry Hall #9 | 17. Administration Building for Hall #4 |
| | 10. Gas-Works, under construction | 18. Grounds for future Smithy |
| | 11. Administrative Building | 19. Provisional Barracks |
| | 12. Pattern Storage Area | 20. Transformer for Hall #4 |

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FOUNDRY HALL #9

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|--------|---|----|-------------------------------------|
| A | Storage Area for Iron-Scrap | C1 | Foundry |
| A1 | Storage Area for Sand (sand-forms) | C2 | Gas Ovens |
| A2 | Storage Area of Alloy Ores | C3 | Slag-Hole |
| A3 | Hydraulic Press | D | Foundry |
| B | Storage Area for Round Steel Bars (Rauchschiß) | D1 | Chill Casting - Eight Iron Molds |
| B1 | Wire Drawing Shop | E | Pattern Shop |
| B2 | Four-ton Furnace | F | Cleaners for Castings |
| B3 | Transformer for Four-ton and One 10-ton Furnace | G | Storage Area for Finished Products |
| B4 | Two 10-ton Furnaces | G1 | Reserve Sand Storage Area |
| B5 | Transformer for One 10-ton Furnace | H | Storage Area for Defective Products |
| B6 | Masonry for Furnaces | J | Three High Compression Ovens |
| B7, B8 | Gas-heated Dry Oven | K | Normal Gauge Track |
| B9 | Pan Grinder (Kollergang) | | |